

## Minutes City Council Issue Review Session November 21, 2013

Minutes of the Tempe City Council Issue Review Session held on Thursday, November 21, 2013, 6:00 p.m., in the City Council Chambers, Tempe City Hall, 31 E. Fifth Street, Tempe, Arizona.

### **COUNCIL PRESENT:**

Mayor Mark W. Mitchell  
Councilmember Shana Ellis  
Councilmember Joel Navarro

Councilmember Robin Arredondo-Savage  
Councilmember Kolby Granville  
Councilmember Corey D. Woods

### **COUNCIL ABSENT:**

Vice Mayor Onnie Shekerjian

### **STAFF PRESENT:**

Andrew B. Ching, City Manager  
Judi Baumann, City Attorney  
Shelly Seyler, Deputy Public Works Director - Transportation  
Various Department Heads or their representatives

Jeff Kulaga, Assistant City Manager  
Brigitta M. Kuiper, City Clerk  
Eric Iwersen, Principal Planner

*Mayor Mitchell called the meeting to order at 6:19 p.m.*

## **Call to the Audience**

Steve Rath, Tempe, noted that he lives near Baseline Road and McClintock Drive and travels on Broadway Road often; he attended the Broadway Road Streetscape and Bicycle/Pedestrian Improvement Project public meeting on October 17, 2013. He expressed concerns about the project, noting that the proposed improvements are unnecessary and Federal funds should not be used; he questioned the necessity for landscaped median islands and the accuracy of \$5,000 for annual landscaping costs. He is opposed to the project for the following reasons: the proposed lane closure on Broadway Road would cause more pollution; the installation of bicycle lanes on this road would cause more bicycle accidents; the addition of Orbit buses would cause more traffic jams on this road; and the occurrence of an accident on Southern Avenue or Apache Boulevard would cause traffic congestion on Broadway Road.

## **Broadway Road Streetscape Project**

Shelly Seyler, Deputy Public Works Director – Transportation, introduced co-presenter, Eric Iwersen, Principal Planner with the Community Development Department, who will provide an update on the progress of the Broadway Road Bicycle, Pedestrian, and Streetscape Project and present the final recommended design concept to City Council.

Mr. Iwersen stated that staff is requesting consensus to move forward with the project and advance the final concept that includes one lane removal in the eastbound direction, bicycle lanes, wider sidewalks and street trees on the south side of the road, landscaped median islands, and a buffer/wall treatment on the north side of Broadway Road. Staff previously presented information on this project at the May 30, 2013 Issue Review Session. Mr. Iwersen delivered a slide presentation detailing the project location and intent; project history and funding; current conditions within the project area; City right-of-way limits; public process; current and projected traffic volumes on Broadway Road if the lane was removed; historical decline of the number of

vehicles travelling on Broadway Road; lane closure simulation data; final design concept recommended for advancement based on public feedback and data; depictions of the recommended design along different sections of Broadway Road and street treatment options for Broadway Lane; and next steps in the process/direction.

Councilmembers and staff discussed the following: Data was collected from traffic volume counters at 25 area streets, before and during the simulation of the closure of the third eastbound lane on Broadway Road, from September 16 to 30, 2013, for 24 hours a day. Staff collected data onsite at eastbound Broadway Road at Rural Road and at Mill Avenue on Tuesdays and Wednesdays during the morning (7:00 to 9:00 a.m.) and evening (3:30 to 5:30 p.m.) rush hours; the traffic volume counters were onsite on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays and took the average of the three-day volumes over the first, second, and third weeks. Staff does not collect traffic volume data on Mondays and Fridays because these days of the week typically generate lower traffic volumes due to varying work schedules (e.g., telecommunicating or flex time) of commuters. Staff has not selected the types of trees for the proposed landscaped areas, but for all of the City's streetscape projects, staff has been selecting trees that have low water use or are true native species, such as blue palo verde or Chinese pistache. The proposed right-of-way and streetscape improvements will make the intersection of Broadway Road and College Avenue safer, as requested by nearby residents, and the proposed lane removal will slow down vehicle traffic making Broadway Road more pedestrian and bicyclist friendly. The addition of bicycle lanes on Broadway Road and the enhanced pedestrian crosswalks at Rural Road, Mill Avenue, and College Avenue will provide a tremendous asset and value to the community.

Councilmembers expressed appreciation for the work and direction of staff on this project, particularly their efforts in reaching out to community residents and incorporating public comments. Support was also expressed for considering the implementation of bicycle and pedestrian streetscape enhancements farther west on Broadway Road in the future.

Based on the discussion, the City Council supported staff's recommendation to move forward with the project and advance the final concept that includes one lane removal in the eastbound direction, bicycle lanes, wider sidewalks and street trees on the south side of the road, landscaped median islands, and a buffer/wall treatment on the north side of Broadway Road.

## **Formal Council Agenda Item**

None.

## **Future Agenda Items**

Supportive Housing Pilot Project

## **Mayor's Announcements/Manager's Announcements**

None.

***The meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m.***

I, Brigitta M. Kuiper, the duly-appointed City Clerk of the City of Tempe, Maricopa County, Arizona, do hereby certify the above to be the minutes of the Issue Review Session meeting of November 21, 2013, by the Tempe City Council, Tempe, Arizona.

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Mark W. Mitchell, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Brigitta M. Kuiper, City Clerk